

REMARKS

Claims 46, 49-57, 59-64, 70 and 71 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-45, 47, 48, 58 and 66-69 are hereby cancelled. Applicant, however, retains the right to present cancelled claims 1-45, 47, 48, 58 and 66-69 in a later-filed application.

The Office Action Summary for the most recent Office Action indicates that the drawings are still objected to by the Examiner. However, page 2 of the Office Action indicates that the previous amendment and drawings were entered. In order to rectify this ambiguity, applicant has included with this response formal drawing sheets for Figures 22-24. No changes have been made to the drawings.

All pending claims should now be allowable for the following reasons.

Claim 46 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 48 and intervening claim 47. The Examiner previously noted that claim 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, since claim 46 now contains all the limitations of claim 48 and intervening claim 47, it is now allowable.

Claims 49-56 should also be allowable since they each depend on claim 46.

Claim 57 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 58. The Examiner had previously noted that claim 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, since claim 57 now contains all the limitations of claim 58, it is now allowable.

Claims 59-64 should also be allowable since they each depend on claim 57.

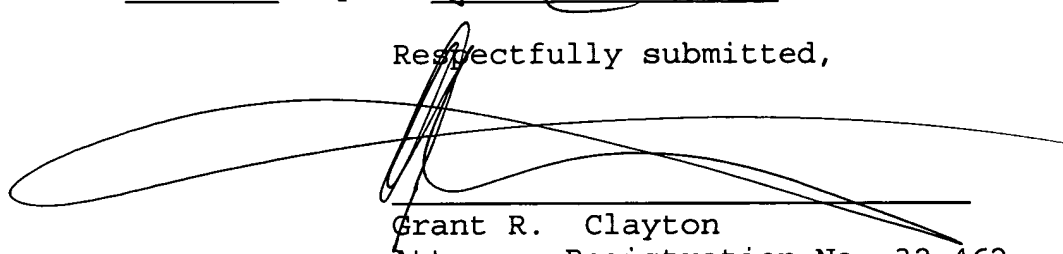
New claims 70 and 71 are also allowable. Claims 70 and 71 incorporate collectively the limitations found in claim 65. The Examiner had previously noted that claim 65 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes that the prior art does not teach or suggest a friction enhancing means with globules protruding therefrom to thereby increase friction as recited in claim 70. Moreover, the prior art does not teach or suggest that the globules be formed from polyvinyl chloride as recited in claim 71. Thus, for these reasons, claims 70 and 71 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION AND AUTHORIZATION OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that claims 46, 49-57, 59-64, 70 and 71 are all allowable and the same is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same.

DATED this 7 day of June, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Replacement formal drawings for FIGS. 22-24

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